

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**FROM: Representative Rick Mirabito**

**Date: January 12, 2011**

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CO-SPONSORS  
PA GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY PORTAL**

When the 2011/2012 legislative session convenes in January, I will re-introduce legislation designed to ensure transparency in State Government spending through a single searchable Internet portal, known as the Pennsylvania Government Accountability Portal or PennGAP. This legislation, with the exception of technical modifications, is identical to a bill I introduced in the 2009/2010 legislative session, HB1880, which was approved unanimously by the House on December 8, 2009.

My legislation differs from previous proposals that sought transparency in spending in that it seeks to facilitate public access to virtually all publicly accessible information one would need to ascertain just how public funds are spent. Specifically, PennGAP would be a user-friendly searchable database which would be configured to allow a person to examine and aggregate agency-specific spending and revenue information on a 24-hour basis, without charge, maintained and serviced by a full-time Webmaster. Under my proposal, the Treasury Department would collaborate with other State agencies to establish and maintain PennGAP.

My legislation also differs from previous transparency proposals in that the term "State agency" is defined to mirror the way that term is defined in the Right-to-Know Law. Under the Right-to-Know Law, "State agency" is defined broadly to include any Commonwealth agency, legislative agency, judicial agency, independent agency, State-affiliated agency or State-related institution.

State agency data maintained on PennGAP would include, but not be limited to: (1) budget line items and expenditure information; (2) financial data associated with the purchase of goods and services, including professional and technical services; (3) financial disbursements made by or through various Commonwealth programs; (4) expected and actual program outcomes; (5) the amount and nature of bonded indebtedness; (6) the total amount of salaries/wages paid to State agency employees; and (7) revenues received by each State agency.

Furthermore, PennGAP would be engineered to include fully searchable databases of information associated with State agency contracting, tax credit programs, sales and use tax payments, professional and occupational licensure revocations, investments of public funds, completed audit reports, and monthly credit card Statements. Expenditure and financial disbursement data of various State agencies would be sorted separately by State agency,

expenditure category, amount of expenditure, and in explicit cases, by legislative and senatorial district. A direct link to each State agency's website would be a required feature of the PennGAP.

If you wish to join me as a co-sponsor of this legislation, please contact Jeannie in my office, by email at [jkosier@pahouse.net](mailto:jkosier@pahouse.net) or call 772.1314. Thank you.